

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 5127

TITLE: ECOLOGIST III

GRADE: S-27

DEFINITION:

Under direction, develops and manages various water quality monitoring programs such as the Stream Protection Strategy (SPS) program that are part of the County's Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES); serves as principal contact/resource on questions, policies and procedures relating to the health and protection of the County's streams and stream valleys; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Ecologist III differs from the Ecologist II in that the Ecologist III performs advanced, specialized water resources and biological science duties, and serves as team leader responsible for managing water quality monitoring programs, whereas the Ecologist II conducts work which is considered full-performance level.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Plans, develops and manages water quality monitoring programs such as the Stream Protection Strategy program to ensure compliance with the VPDES permit for the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4);
Establishes schedules and coordinates monitoring of stormwater infrastructure and streams in compliance with the VPDES;
Develops stream assessment protocols;
Develops monitoring plans and quality assurance project plans (QAPPs);
Develops data analysis procedures and prepares water quality monitoring reports which summarize conditions of streams and the impacts of development and stormwater management systems on the ecological health of County streams and stream valleys;
Prepares VPDES permit reports;
Oversees and trains lower level staff in the field and on team projects;
Reviews and prepares updates to County code, ordinances, and policies related to the protection of streams and stream valleys;
Reviews and comments on proposed federal, state and local regulations, ordinances, and policies;
Serves as principal point of contact for responding to citizen and business community questions regarding stream conditions;
Prepares, negotiates, and administers consultant water quality monitoring support contracts;
Reviews and comments on environmental impact statements prepared by outside agencies and consultants;
Assists with the preparation and monitoring of performance measures for the annual budgetary process;
Coordinates and reviews input for County website on watershed and stormwater management related content.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Expert knowledge and experience in collection and field analysis of water chemistry parameters;
Considerable knowledge and experience in performing bioassessments in accordance with standard protocols such as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Rapid Bioassessment Protocol;

Considerable knowledge of stream classification methodologies based upon measures of stream hydrologic, biota, soils, and geomorphologic characteristics;

Knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of water quality monitoring plans and quality assurance project plans (QAPPs);

Knowledge of regional fish communities and experience in field identification to the species level;

Knowledge of regional benthic macro invertebrate communities and experience in laboratory identification to the genus level;

Knowledge of laboratory and field safety procedures, and the handling, storage and transfer of flammable and/or toxic chemicals;

Knowledge of Wetland Delineation techniques including the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual, and ability to perform field delineations;

Knowledge of wetland regulations and permitting requirements;

Knowledge of personal computers, associated hardware and networked environments for the development, storage and dissemination of environmental data;

Ability to interpret County, Federal and State regulations, codes and ordinances related to the Federal Clean Water Act and State Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act;

Ability to develop stream assessment protocols and to write County codes, ordinances and procedures;

Ability to analyze and manage environmental data using databases, spreadsheets, statistical programs and/or Geographic Information Systems (GIS);

Ability to lead, motivate and coordinate employees and volunteers to achieve water quality monitoring program goals and objectives;

Ability to communicate technical and semi-technical issues effectively, both orally and writing, to a wide range of audiences;

Ability to calibrate and maintain field equipment used in water quality monitoring;

Ability to carry field equipment and hike long distances over rough terrain;

Ability to operate a motor vehicle.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to the following:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in aquatic ecology, biology, environmental science, limnology, natural resource management, or a related field;

PLUS

Five years of experience in the environmental science field at, or equivalent to, the Ecologist II level, to include experience in water quality monitoring, data analysis and reporting, bioassessments (fish and macroinvertebrates) using standard protocols, and assessments of stream habitat conditions.

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CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Possession of a valid motor vehicle driver's license.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

None.

ESTABLISHED: February 17, 2004